

All the Year Round the Good Sportsman is Satisfied With an Even Break

ROURKE LINING UP HIS PLAYERS

Contracts Going Out to Men Who Will Play on the Omaha Team This Season.

TWENTY-EIGHT ON THE LIST

Eight Pitchers to Be Called at the Start for the Tryout.

GONDING AGAIN BEHIND THE BAT

Many New Faces to Be Seen Among Members of Rourke Family.

SEEKS SOME OF MAJOR LEAGUES

Testing Grounds to Be at Joplin and After Working Out There the Bunch Will Come Home for Practice Games.

he first step in lining up the 1912 Omaha base ball team will start this week when Pa Rourke sends out contracts to the twenty-eight players owned by him. The contracts will be mailed Tuesday.

In order to comply with the rules of the National commission the contracts must be sent to all players owned by the club on or before February 1. To avoid hold-outs, Pa has decided to send his contracts out right away and thus receive them back before many weeks have passed. Those who will receive contracts are:

- Catchers—Gonding, Agnew, Arbogast and Campfield.
- Pitchers—Lotz, Keeley, Robinson, Hall, Frenette, Rhodes, Sindelar and Cook.
- First Basemen—Kane and Porkorney.
- Second Basemen—Moore and Scanlon.
- Third Basemen—Nishoff and Schipka.
- Short Stop—Justice, Farrell, Kneaves and Ward.
- Outfielders—Thomason, Coyle, Anderson, Souris, Schooner and Lee.

Some Trades in Sight. Pa Rourke does not intend to take his whole squad to Joplin with him. He has received several offers for some of his men already and as soon as he gets back his contracts he will probably make a few deals. At least two trades are in sight whereby Pa will receive a couple of pitchers and infielders. At present Pa is after pitchers and has his list cast for a couple of major leaguers. It is his present intention to take about twenty-three men to Joplin with him and give them all a chance to make the team. Of this number there are about three who are not now on the Rourke roster, but who will be at Joplin when the first day's practice begins.

"I do not think there will be many hold-outs this year," said Pa Rourke yesterday. "All the regulars who played on last year's team will send their contracts back signed almost as soon as they receive them. The reason for this is that every manager in the country is seeking to sell and there is hardly a buyer in any of the leagues at present. The chief cause for the small number of buyers is accredited to the poor base ball season last year when only three leagues in the country made any money. I don't think there will be many hold-outs in any part of the country this year as every player wants to be sure of a berth and the managers are not going to put up with any foolishness on the parts of the players."

Jim Kane Ready. Jim Kane recently wrote to Pa Rourke and expressed himself as being ready for the tap of the gong. He said he was in good condition and was anxious to get back into the game again. Thomas is anxiously waiting for the season to open and thinks that the spring training trip next March will do more good for the team than any other plan Pa could have hit upon.

Pa Rourke's team will not be the only one in the league that will make a spring training trip. Denver has decided to make a trip into Texas as it did last year. Topolka announced yesterday that the ball team would make a trip into Texas. The Kews will make the trip to Tloma, Tex., a town of 2,000, about sixty miles north of Fort Worth. March 20 has been decided as the date to report at Tloma.

The Rourkes will report at Joplin March 13 and will practice there every day for twenty-five days and will then jump straight to Omaha and will play a week with American association and major league teams.

Old Roman Selects Best Ball Players

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—President Charles A. Comiskey of the White Sox has selected the men whom he considers the twenty greatest ball players of the past or present. The list includes Charlie Ferguson, the old Philadelphia pitcher, and Eddie Collins of the Athletics. Comiskey's selections are as follows: Buck Ewing, first; Mike Kelly, second; "Pop" Anson, third; Charlie Ferguson, fourth; Fred Pfeiffer, fifth; Collins, sixth; Wagner, seventh; John Glascock, eighth; Tom Cobb, ninth; Fred Clarke, tenth; Willie Keeler, eleventh; the old Boston team, twelfth; Charlie Rabbourne, thirteenth; Providence pitcher, Bobbly Carruthers, fourteenth; St. Louis Browns; Christ Mathewson, fifteenth; Clark Griffith and Ed Walsh, sixteenth; Ferguson, seventeenth; and he played with the Philadelphia team and had it on Anson in that, while he was always considered a great first baseman, he could play any position in the game. He was a rattling good pitcher, could bat like a house afire, and was one of the speediest runners of his day. It was a pity he died in the prime of life long before his active playing days were over.

Of Eddie Collins, Comiskey says: "He's got it on all of the others in the game today. I don't know that a good lawyer went to waste but I do know that a mighty good ball player was found when Eddie decided to give up the technicalities of Blackstone for the intricacies of base ball. There isn't much use saying anything about Connie Mack's star—everybody knows that he is a wonder as well as I do."

Omaha Boys Who Are Leading at Basket Ball



PIRATES TEAM OF THE YOUNG MEN LEAGUE.

BASKET BALL BOYS WORKING

Coach Clark of High School Studying Individuals for Team.

BURKENROAD WILL BE GUARD

Captain Crocker, Berry, Munneke and Shary Showing Up Well—Team Will Be Made Up of Star Basket Ball Men.

The Omaha high school basket ball squad is getting plenty of practice through the holidays and Coach Clark is not allowing the lads to get stale for want of hard work to put them in shape for the opening of the season.

Every morning the squad assembles in the gymnasium at the Young Men's Christian association for a hard hour's practice in throwing baskets, getting up wind and learning the finer points of the game. Much improvement in "dribbling" the ball has been noticeable during the past week, especially among the new members of the squad. As a rule, high school quints are weak at this feature of the game and many find it the hardest obstacle to overcome.

Coach Clark has not yet picked the regular five, nor will he do so until the first games of the season have been played and the weak and strong points of every individual player are shown. He is making several shifts and is trying out every lad in at least two positions.

It is almost certain that Leslie Burkenroad will hold down a guard position. He is counted upon as one of the mainstays of the team this season. He has been playing with the Tiger Cubs quintet of the Young Men's Christian association for the last five weeks, thereby putting himself in excellent condition to work out with the high school squad.

Beryl Crocker, the speedy little captain, may be shifted from his position at right guard to a forward position. Coach Clark is not allowing Crocker to take an active part in the game until his knee, injured during the foot ball season, becomes stronger.

Maxon Berry, star guard on the South Omaha five last season, is counted upon to hold down the right guard position if Crocker is shifted to a forward. Edward Bauman, a sophomore, is putting up a strong run for a guard in practice.

Harry Munneke and Clarence Shary are working hard for the center place. Munneke played a forward with the regular five last year and can be shifted to that position again this season if necessary. Shary has had considerable experience, having played at forward and center for two years with the Wilber high school quintet.

Other members of the squad who are showing up well in practice are Sidney Shary, forward; Dave Bowman, forward or guard; J. Over, guard or forward; Kenneth Craig, forward; Eugene Eastman, forward, and James Durkee, guard or forward.

Racing Given Blow By Philadelphians

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 30.—It looks as though the latest automobile race had been driven in Fairmount park. The park commission of Philadelphia is open in its opposition to a renewal of the contest and the American Automobile association has looked on it with disfavor since the breach opened over the starter question last October. Only strong pressure can induce the park officers to change their opinions in the matter.

The first attack against this very popular race was made by Dr. J. William White of the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the Fairmount Park commission. The attack was made at the commission meeting, when Dr. White cited from the table his resolutions to abolish the race.

Dr. White declared that there was no race for such a race, that it was dangerous to life, that the automobile manufacturers did not want it and that there was no popular demand for it from the public.

Members of the Quaker City Motor club opposed Dr. White, and eventually the entire matter was referred to the committee on superintendence and police. Most of the members of the park commission appear to agree with Dr. White, and it looks as if the commission will refuse the use of the park for the race.

Omaha Lads Shine at Basket Ball at the Nebraska Uni

Omaha is likely to be well represented on the Cornhusker basket ball five this season, as eleven Omaha boys, most of them former stars on the local high school and Young Men's Christian association quints, are making a strong run for places on Coach Stehman's regular squad.

Sam Carrier, Omaha high school '09, is sure of holding down one of the forward positions on the regular quintet. He played a sensational game at forward on the varsity five last season and is now in excellent condition to even better his previous performances.

Chandler Trimble, '10, and "Dutch" Nagle, '09, are two likely candidates for the regular five. Both are former Omaha high school stars, Nagle playing a guard and Trimble a forward two years ago. Two Omaha lads who are working out for the varsity are Hugh Mills and John Outright.

Of the fourteen members of the freshman squad, six of them are Omaha lads. Warren Howard, who put up such a sensational game at quarterback on the freshman eleven this fall, is making a strong run for either a guard or a forward position. Will Bauman, guard on last year's high school quintet, is playing at left guard for the first year men, and John Reel, formerly prominent as a local association star, is holding down the other guard. Robert Finley, '10, is playing at center. Other freshmen from Omaha on the squad are Ralph Doud and Charles Hudson.

Ten Leaders of Various Athletics at the High School

The ten leaders in the Omaha high school athletics for the year 1911:

- Virgil Rector, foot ball, track events and basket ball.
- Robert Wood, track events.
- Beryl Crocker, basket ball and foot ball.
- Leslie Burkenroad, basket ball.
- Hugh Millard, track events and foot ball.
- Siviers Suzzman, tennis.
- Malcolm Baldrige, foot ball.
- Miss Laura Zimmerman, girls' tennis champion.
- Dave Bowman, foot ball.
- Harold Johnston, golf.

Try for Golf Meet in Omaha Next Year

The annual meeting of the Western Golf association will be held in Chicago Saturday evening, January 30. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers and directors for the ensuing year and to select a nominating committee. The nominating committee for 1911 met recently and submitted its ticket for next year. W. J. Foye of the Omaha Country club has been nominated for a committee man for 1912. John D. Cady of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf club was nominated for president for the ensuing year. The awarding for the association tournaments will go from Omaha will try to land a tournament for this city. The delegates have not yet been named.

Johnson Matched With Sam McVey

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—Jack Johnson champion, and Sam McVey will fight for the heavyweight championship of the world at Sydney, Australia, Easter Monday, if Hugh McIntosh, the Sydney promoter, approves the agreement made here today by his representative and Johnson.

Tom Andrews of Milwaukee, McIntosh's American representative, agreed to give Johnson \$20,000, win, lose or draw, \$5,000 training expense and four round trip tickets to Australia. Johnson agreed to fight with these provisions.

"McVey is the logical candidate," said Johnson. "He got his place by beating Sam Langford. I stopped him in six rounds, however, and another time cleaned him at the end of twenty rounds. He will be soft for me now. It won't take much training, but I am going in for, so as not to be surprised. I'll begin work at once."

Andrews said he expected cable approval of the terms from McIntosh immediately.

UVICK AND SULLIVAN SIGN

Middleweights Post Forfeit Money for Battle Here January 25.

Will Be Uvick's First Battle Since Return from Successful Eastern Tour—Sullivan a Popular Fighter.

Articles have been signed and forfeit money posted for a boxing exhibition between Billy Uvick, the South Omaha middleweight, and Montana Jack Sullivan of Butte, Mont., for January 25. It has not been decided where the exhibition will be staged. The Lyric theater or Washington hall will be chosen. The only objection to the Lyric theater is the limited seating capacity.

Both the principals are of high class caliber and the fight fans probably will get a treat when these two come together. Uvick is well known in Omaha and is considered one of the best middleweights in this section. He recently returned from the east, where he fought five battles, winning four and being defeated in the fifth when his left hand gave out.

About a year ago Jack Sullivan gave Sabor Burke one of the worst beatings he ever had. Burke recently had trouble whipping Uvick. Uvick will have a great chance to get the best of the decision here, as he will be fighting among friends.

Montana Jack Sullivan is known all over the country and is favorite on both the Pacific and the Atlantic coasts.

Ski Men Will Hold Tourny in Chicago

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—Amateur and professional ski men will gather next month to take part in the big international ski tournament which the Norge Ski club of this city is arranging to hold at Cary, Ill., on January 27, 28 and 29. Promoters of the affair hope to make it the largest of its kind ever held in this country and are endeavoring to secure the entry of the world's prominent performers in this form of sport.

According to the arrangements the first two days of the big meet will be devoted to amateurs. On the third day professionals will compete for money prizes. The principal feature to the amateur events is the fact that the Norge challenge trophy is open for competition. This has twice been won by Barney Reilly of Coleraine, Minn.

Already work has begun on the hill at Cary, on which championship events will be contested. Contractors at work have put the concrete bases in place and are now ready for the erection of the steel structure. This will stand at the crest of the natural hill and the top will tower 30 feet in the air. The entire sliding surface of the raceway will be 750 feet. It is thought that several new records will be hung up if there is a large quantity of snow on the hill on the days of the meet. The promoters also mean to prepare for emergency. In order to be prepared for a thaw on race days the men will rely on stored snow, which they plan to gather a week before the meet. Then if a thaw does hit them they will be able to cope successfully with the situation.

In making ready for the great gathering of Norsemen the Norge club faces a big problem, for fully 300 men will have to be quartered during the meet. The original suggestion was to house them at Cary's hotels, but this will not be convenient on account of the large equipment each man is required to carry. Negotiations are now under way for the leasing of a large armory, and it is very probable that this building will prove available.

Kansas City Wins Western Handicap Over Omaha's Bid

The next Western handicap shoot will be held in Kansas City, according to word received by Billy Townsend of the Omaha Gun club. Billy made a bid for the tournament for Omaha, but as the shoot was held here last year, the directors decided to give it to some other city, though the Omaha tournament was by far the most successful ever pulled off by that western body.

However, the Omahians will have a chance to participate in a shoot next June, when the state tournament will be held on the Omaha Gun club grounds. This tournament alone will bring 20 marksmen to the city and the gun club feels that it will not be a dull year after all.

After the Lincoln Team. George Tebeau, owner of the Kansas City American association team club, it is said, is trying to purchase the Lincoln club. Tom Fairweather, last year's owner of the Scout City team, is also anxious for the Antelope franchise.

Base Ball Getting Approval of Cuba, Asserts Bancroft

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Frank Bancroft, business manager of the Cincinnati Reds, who was acting in the same capacity for the Giants on their Cuban trip this winter, is enthusiastic over the prospects of base ball in Cuba. Bancroft has been watching the progress of the game there since 1879, when he took the first professional team to the Pearl of the Antilles. In a recent interview he predicted that the world's champion games will eventually be played in Havana. The Cubans call Bancroft the "Father of Base Ball in Cuba."

"No person on earth can appreciate the growth of base ball in Cuba more than I can," said Bancroft. "The advancement of the game since I went to Cuba in 1873 with the 'Hot Bitters' is simply astonishing. While I may not live to see it, I predict that it will not be many years before the world's championship will be played between the champions of America, Cuba and Japan and other foreign countries where base ball is getting a firm hold."

"The Cubans are certainly quick to pick up the fine points of the game, and when I hear American players coming back and giving all kinds of excuses, laying the blame on the climate, etc., it makes me laugh. While the American players may not be used to the climate, and it is to a certain extent a handicap, the cold fact remains that the Cubans are good ball players and win on their merits."

"American scouts in looking for talent will keep in touch with the coming young Cuban players, and I predict that many more will be grabbed up by the league teams in future years."

"Cuba is very fortunate in having such a man as Senor Jimenes to handle base ball affairs, and the support that is given him by the sporting writers cannot be beaten in any city in America. While the sport is kept as clean as it now is by the support of the press, the public and the players, base ball is certain to grow until it is equal to the game in any country."

Creighton Hopes For Big Gridiron Games Next Year

As Omaha has not witnessed a big college foot ball game for the last two Thanksgivings, Creighton university is trying to bring a whirlwind game here Tuesday day of 1912, and is negotiating with South Dakota university for the date.

South Dakota played here on November 4, this year, putting up the finest exhibition of foot ball ever witnessed on the local gridiron and the Creighton management is now trying to arrange next year's game for Thanksgiving.

The rest of the 1912 schedule will be made up of Creighton's usual foes and several new schools. The Kansas Aggies will come to Omaha next year, while the annual battle with Morningside will be staged at Sioux City. Several of the alumni have been inquiring why athletic relations were discontinued with Drake, Grinnell and the Haskell Indians, and as each of these eleven would be desirable opponents it is likely they will be put on the schedule.

Uhlan Sets Record For Wagon Racing

In his comparatively few starts against time Uhlan did right well in his efforts to add further laurels to his championship honor. His nine mile to wagon in 56.4 seconds lowered the former record of Major Deimar of 1:30 to the same hitch. His mile to wagon in 2:09 flat, driven by his owner, C. K. G. Billings, lowered his own record of 2:31 by a gold-rod, and equalled the world's record of La Diller, a mile to wagon and the fastest mile driven by an amateur. Mr. Billings being the driver of both records.

His mile in 2:09, or a half-mile track also ruled his own world's record of 2:06, made at Allentown, Pa., last year. Peter Thompson, a 3-year-old gelding, made the most notable world's race record of the year with a big reduction, when he gained a mark of 2:07, reducing the former record of Peter Sterling, 2:13, for age and sex, made in 1901.

In her race against Willy and Grace at Columbus, Soprano trotted a fourth heat in 2:06, a reduction of a full second from the former mark held by Demar, and in the same race she won the world's fastest four-horse race—after losing the first heat to Grace—in 2:05, 2:04, 2:06, and 2:04, the former best four heats in one race being in 2:05, 2:04, 2:06, and 2:07, a reduction of 3/4 seconds for the race.

Persistent Advertising is the Road to Big Returns.

BASKET BALL MEN TO MEET

High School Teams to Play in Tournament in Lincoln.

Manager Eager Fixes the Date of the Big Gathering for About the Middle of March.

LINCOLN, Dec. 30.—(Special).—The Nebraska State High School basket ball tournament will be held in the university gymnasium March 14-16 under the direction of Earl O. Eager, Nebraska manager of athletics.

At least twenty of the leading high school quints of the state are planning to enter. As soon as a team loses a game it will be eliminated from the tournament and all the games will be played off by an immediate extra period of play following the game. Competent officials will be chosen and the players participating in the tournament will be entertained by the Lincoln High school boys and the university students.

The handsome silver loving cup which is now in the possession of the Beatrice High school, the winner of last year's tournament, will be contested for. C. A. Tucker of Lincoln is the donor of the cup. Individual medals will also be awarded the members of the winning quintet.

Last year's tournament attracted considerable attention and ended in an exciting and sensational game between Beatrice and South Omaha, Beatrice winning by the score of 19 to 17. The game went to a tie, 17 to 17, and in the extra period of play Dick Rutherford, the Gate out of Quincy's speedy right guard, won individual honors and the state championship by a lucky basket. Omaha lost out in the semi-final round of the tournament to Lincoln after playing a tie game, 23 to 23, the game ending 24 to 23 in favor of the Capital City lads.

Teams in the Meet. The teams planning to enter the tournament this year are Beatrice, South Omaha, Lincoln, Omaha, Falls City, Sidney, Wilber, Aurora, York, Central City, Scribner, Temple High, University Place and Kearney. Stromsburg, Geneva, Tecumseh, West Point, Cedar Rapids, North Platte, Fremont and Hastings are possible entrants.

Central City and Sidney have been the most active in Nebraska inter-school basket ball circles so far this season, Central City standing an excellent chance of winning the state tournament. They have already won four important games, defeating Silver Creek, Aurora, Sidney and Palmer, some of the fastest quints in the state.

The Omaha high school boys are planning to enter the tournament and expect to better their performance of last year. The prospects for a championship team are the brightest in years, and as practice has now been going on for the last three weeks and fifty boys are competing for places on the regular quintet, and the classifies. Coach Clark will have no trouble in picking a strong team to represent the school.

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In his comparatively few starts against time Uhlan did right well in his efforts to add further laurels to his championship honor. His nine mile to wagon in 56.4 seconds lowered the former record of Major Deimar of 1:30 to the same hitch. His mile to wagon in 2:09 flat, driven by his owner, C. K. G. Billings, lowered his own record of 2:31 by a gold-rod, and equalled the world's record of La Diller, a mile to wagon and the fastest mile driven by an amateur. Mr. Billings being the driver of both records.

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HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE SPORT WORLD

Record of What the High Schools of the Country Are Doing.

OMAHA SPENDS MOST MONEY

Receipts from Omaha Games Permit of Larger Expenditure.

BASKET BALL IS MOST POPULAR

More Students Engage in This Sport Than Any Other.

TRACK EVENTS ADVANCING

In Wichita but Ten Per Cent of the Boys Enrolled Take Part in the Athletics of the School.

Statistical Report of Athletics Among the Leading High Schools of the Country.

SCHOOL	Boys enrolled	Boys in Athletics	Track	Base Ball	Football	Other	Total
Alameda, Cal.	200	50	25	15	10	5	55
Beatrice	150	40	20	15	10	5	50
Burlington	180	30	15	10	5	5	45
Chicago, Englewood	325	35	15	10	10	5	45
Davenport	400	25	10	10	5	5	35
Des Moines	250	20	10	10	5	5	30
Detroit, Cent. High	1,400	300	100	100	100	100	400
Elgin, Minn.	220	100	30	15	10	5	60
Lincoln	60	22	10	10	5	5	30
Omaha	651	300	30	60	150	100	340
St. Louis, McKinley High	515	150	75	75	75	75	300
St. Paul, Central High	432	100	50	50	50	50	200
Seattle	400	40	20	15	10	5	50
Sioux City	100	20	10	10	5	5	30
Spokane	100	20	10	10	5	5	30
Springfield, Mass.	200	40	20	15	10	5	50
Wichita	400	30	15	10	5	5	35
York, Neb.	114	70	35	35	20	10	100
Yonkers, N.Y.	300	25	10	10	5	5	30
Totals	13,871	3,000	881	1,476	1,351	1,351	5,059

Leading High School. The above table of statistics shows in a condensed form the attitude that prominent educators are taking towards the idea of promoting the idea of athletics in the leading high schools of the country. The report has been tabulated from statistics sent to Prof. C. B. Reed, athletic director at the Omaha High school, in reply to an athletic questionnaire which he mailed to fifty-eight of the leading high schools of the country last month.

Omaha high school ranks exceedingly high among the other schools. Detroit Central school being the only other school which exceeds it in the total number of boys enrolled. One striking feature of the report is that the local school has a larger annual expenditure for the support of athletics than any other school mentioned.

Englewood High of Chicago ranks first in the number of boys who take part in athletics, having a total of 325 who participate in the various branches of sport. Des Moines West High ranks first with sixty lads who play foot ball, and Springfield (Mass.) Central High and the Kansas City (Kan.) High each have 200 lads who play basket ball.

Proportion in Athletics. Following is a brief statement of the questions and answers which appear in the report:

Question 1—What is your total enrollment of boys?—How many boys participate in one or more branches of athletics during the year? Answer: The average number of lads who take part in athletics is 30 per cent of the number enrolled. Kansas City, Kan., is the highest—66 per cent and Seattle and Wichita the lowest with but 10 per cent. Six of the schools reach a half or more of the lads enrolled with physical exercise.

Question 2—How many boys take part in (a) foot ball, (b) basket ball, (c) track events? Answer: This question was aimed to show the comparative value of the three most important high school sports, from the standpoint of the boys interested. The result shows that basket ball reaches 1,476 lads; track, 1,018, and foot ball, 881. Five of the schools do not have inter-school gridiron games.

Question 3—Do you have interclass foot ball, basket ball or indoor track meets? Answer: Interclass foot ball is the most common interclass game, it being played in twenty-two schools. Twenty-five of the schools hold outdoor track meets and sixteen of them have indoor meets.

Question 4—How much do you spend annually in the support of foot ball, basket ball and track work? Answer: Foot ball cost twenty-five schools an average of \$550 a year; basket ball an average of \$280 and track work, \$165.

Question 5—Do you have foot ball, basket ball and track coach? If so, is he a member of the faculty? How paid, if not a member of the faculty? Answer: In twenty-one of the schools all coaching is done by members of the faculty, paid wholly by the Board of Education. In eight schools the coaching is done by men outside the faculty, who are paid from the funds of the athletic association or from the game receipts. The salary for foot ball coaching varies from \$150 to \$400 per season.

Question 6—How many interschool games does your first team play in foot ball and basket ball and what is the maximum length of trips taken? Answer: An average of eight games a season is carried by twenty-two of the schools. The maximum length of trips from schools reporting is 140 miles. Two schools state that their teams are not permitted to play outside their own town. The average number of games on basket ball schedule is twelve.

Base Ball Losses Money. Question 7—Do you have base ball and track work pay their own expenses. Answer: Basket ball pays its own expenses in twenty-three of the schools,